



The Old Ironsides Report

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Show Me the Money

Story and photo by Spc. Shauna McRoberts
1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Behind every great combat unit there are support elements: supply clerks, mechanics, postal workers, and food service specialists.

At Baghdad International Airport the 1st Armored Division's 8th Finance Battalion provides a variety of financial services, including answering questions about entitlements, setting up allotments, and handing out casual pay.

"We're here to help soldiers," said Lt. Col. Stan Brown, 8th Finance commander.

Though its headquarters is located on BIAP, the battalion provides soldiers to 1st, 2nd and 3rd Brigade Combat Teams, as well as 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. These soldiers work at brigade, battalion and company level to make sure every 1st Armored Division soldier's financial needs are being met.

"Finance is not static office work," said Brown. "We like to get down to the soldier level."

In addition to 1AD, the battalion also services National Guard and Reserve Component soldiers whether or not they are attached to the division. In total, 8th Finance helps approximately 70,000 soldiers in theater.

"Everyone in Task Force Baghdad comes to us," said Brown.

The finance soldiers are also in charge of funding paying agents and according to Brown, this is their biggest mission. A paying agent is trained by 8th Finance to handle money used to buy supplies for their unit on the local economy.

"It's important to make sure soldiers are getting what they need," said Brown.



Staff Sgt. Frederick Nysta, the military pay noncommissioned officer with A Detachment, 8th Finance Battalion, goes over a Leave and Earnings Statement with Spc. Eugene Nauta, a supply clerk with Company C, 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion.

"These paying agents are a tremendous help to us."

The soldiers in Baghdad are not the only ones that 8th Finance supports. Spouses, family members and non-deployed soldiers in Germany also need their services.

"We run a split-base operation," said Brown. "We have finance soldiers back in (Germany) to help people there too. The communication back and forth is very important."

The 8th Finance Battalion is committed to helping all soldiers in Baghdad, no matter what their financial needs. Though they have scheduled hours, Brown says soldiers can get help 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Finance is always available," said Brown. "We'll be here whenever a soldier needs us."

NEWS

U.S. May Cut Air Marshals Despite Warning

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Transportation Security Administration wants to reduce funding for air marshals even as the government is warning about the possibility al-Qaida may try more suicide hijackings. The TSA is seeking approval from Congress to cut \$104 million from the air marshal program to help offset a \$900 million budget shortfall. It's unclear how many of the estimated several thousand air marshal jobs would be affected.

O'Malley Installed As Boston Archbishop

BOSTON (AP) - Sean Patrick O'Malley was installed Wednesday as the new Roman Catholic archbishop of Boston, taking over an archdiocese wracked by accusations that priests abused hundreds of parishioners over the past six decades. O'Malley, 59, is the sixth archbishop of Boston. He succeeds Cardinal Bernard Law, who resigned in December among mounting evidence that church leaders shuffled abusive priests from parish to parish to keep allegations against them secret and spare the church scandal.

Heavy Fighting Erupts in Liberia

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) - Heavy fighting raged in Liberia's besieged capital Wednesday despite rebel declarations of a cease-fire, with President Charles Taylor's troops battling rebels trying to advance on his downtown stronghold. Mortar shells crashed into neighborhoods of tin-roof shacks overnight, killing at least one person and wounding eight adults and a dozen children on the government-controlled side of the capital, aid workers said.

Chaplain's thought for the day:

Q. What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches?

A. A nervous wreck.

Focus of Anxiety

An average person's anxiety is focused on:

40% -- things that will never happen

30% -- the past that can't be changed

12% -- criticism by others, mostly untrue

10% -- health, which gets worse with stress

8% -- real problems that will be faced

Source unknown

"And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind."

Luke 12:29

SPORTS

Giles Gets 9th Straight Hit As Braves Win

ATLANTA (AP) - Marcus Giles has become Atlanta's biggest hit. He tied a major league record Sunday by hitting doubles in his first four at-bats. On Monday, he hit the Braves' fifth grand slam of the season. And on Tuesday, he went 5-for-5 to give him hits in nine straight at-bats. "I'm seeing the ball real good right now," said Giles, who was voted to his first All-Star game but couldn't play because of a concussion. "I'm using my hands more than my lower half." Giles is one short of the NL record for consecutive hits, a mark shared by 10 players and last done by Cincinnati's Bip Roberts in 1992.

Oddly Enough

Hormel Fights to Defend Spam Name

AUSTIN, Minn. (AP) -- Hormel Foods has a message for a Seattle software company: Stop, in the name of Spam! The canned-meat company filed two legal challenges with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to try to stop SpamArrest from using the decades-old name Spam, for which it holds the trademark. Hormel acknowledges that its brand name has taken on new meaning, and it outlines on its Web site what it considers acceptable uses of the word. It says it doesn't object when "spam" is used to describe unsolicited commercial e-mail, but it does object when pictures of its product are used in association with the e-mail term.

A Smart Tip from 1AD Safety:

- **AMVs WILL NOT SPEED IN CONGESTED AREAS**
- **AMVs AND PEDESTRIANS WILL NOT TRAVERSE AIRCRAFT OPERATING AREAS UNNECESSARILY**
- **DON'T CONDUCT PT ON RAMPS, APPROACHES OR RUNWAY**
- **URBAN DEBRIS CAN CAUSE POTENTIAL AIRCRAFT HAZARDS**

This Day in History: 31 July, 1863

On this date George H. Thomas was born in Southampton County, Virginia, known as the "Rock of Chickamauga" for his 1863 defense of the creek in northwestern Georgia. When the Civil War began, he remained loyal to the Union. In the fall of 1864, Thomas clashed twice with Confederate General John B. Hood in Tennessee, first at Franklin in November and then at Nashville in December. Thomas's rout of Hood at Nashville, the most decisive victory of the war, virtually destroyed Hood's army and forced him to give up his command.